

IN THE SPECIFICATION

~~Amend the specification as follows:~~

~~Page 2, lines 1 through 11:~~

Whether contact information is recorded in a hardcopy or digital address book, the information can very quickly become outdated. For instance, with the high mobility of people in today's world, it is unlikely that contact information that was recorded several years ago will be accurate as to any given person. Although this problem may not arise for persons with whom one is familiar on a frequent basis, e.g., family and close friends, it can arise much more frequently with more casual acquaintances. For example, in the personal realm, an individual that graduated from a particular high school likely will lose touch with many people with which he or she was once familiar. To cite an example in the business realm, an individual may lose contact with many of his or her former co-workers, particularly where the individual worked with them early in the individual's career when job-changing is most likely.

~~Page 3, line 15 through Page 4, line 2:~~

The present disclosure relates to a method for sharing contact information. In one arrangement, the method comprises the steps of storing a user's contact information in a database accessible over a network, receiving identification of a person that the user wishes to authorize for access to the user's contact information, enabling the person to access the user's contact information, and transmitting the user's contact information to a computing device of the authorized person from the database via the network in response to a request for this information. In such a method, therefore, the user can store and re-store (*i.e.*, update) his or her contact information such that others can access the most current contact information for the user.

Page 4, lines 8 through 14:

The present disclosure further relates to systems for sharing data. In one arrangement, the system comprises means for storing a user's contact information in a location accessible over a network, means for receiving an identification of persons that a user authorizes to access the user's contact information, means for enabling the persons access to the user's contact information, and means for transmitting the user's contact information to computing devices of the authorized persons from the database in response to requests for this information.

Page 6, line 15 through Page 7, line 3:

As is further indicated in FIG. 1, the computing devices 102 connect to the network 104 either directly (as with the desktop PC 106), or wirelessly (as with the PDA 108 and the mobile telephone 110). Irrespective of the nature of the connection, the computing devices 102 are in some way connected to the network 104 such that they can communicate via the network and therefore send and/or receive data via the network. The network 104 can comprise one or more networks that can include a local area network (LAN) and/or a wide area network (WAN). In a preferred arrangement, however, the network 104 comprises the set of networks that are the Internet. Further included in the system 100 shown in FIG. 1 is one or more network servers 112. As indicated in the figure, each of the servers 112 is connected to the network 104, typically through a direct, physical connection.

Page 8, line 17 through Page 9, line 3:

The network interface devices 208 comprise the hardware with which each computing device 102 transmits and receives information over the network 104. In particular, the network

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Cncl. interface devices 208 include components that communicate both inputs and outputs, for instance, a modulator/demodulator (e.g., analog, digital subscriber line (DSL), or cable modem), a radio frequency (RF) or other transceiver, a telephonic interface, a bridge, a router, etc. Where RF transmission is used, various protocols can be implemented including Bluetooth™ from Bluetooth SIG™ and 802.11 protocol in compliance with Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) specifications.

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Cm.t Page 19, line 8 through Page 20, line 6:

Once the request is received, the contacts information module 214, 314 presents the user with the requested folder, as indicated in block 608. At this point, the user can browse through the contacts identified within the folder. For instance, where the user had selected the "business" folder, the user can view all business contacts that he or she maintains with the virtual address book. By way of example, each contact is presented as the person's name. Although the contact information for each listed person can be stored locally within the computing device 102, for instance in the local database 218, the listed contacts can comprise mere links to the information that is stored remotely, e.g., in the database 316 of the network server 112. In such an arrangement, the links can comprise, for example, an Internet protocol (IP address) or a transmission control protocol (TCP) port that is used to access the information and local storage space can be spared. In an alternative arrangement, the information can be stored in both the local database 218 and the remote database 316 and the local database updated through periodic reference to the remote database (e.g., weekly) via the communication module 216 and the network interface devices 208. In this manner, the information can be more quickly accessed in that retrieval of the pertinent information form the network 104 is not needed. This updating can occur automatically under the direction of the contracts information

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module 214, 314 or manually at the discretion of the user, as long as access privileges have not been revoked. In either case, however, the user will normally be able to access current contact information for the person.
